



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OSAGE COUNTY, COLUMBIA MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARMS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Osage County, Mo., man and a Columbia, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, to being felons in possession of firearms.

* **Kelly D. Griffith**, 43, of Osage County, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to being a felon in possession of two loaded firearms.

By pleading guilty, **Griffith** admitted that he was in possession of a loaded Bushmaster .223-caliber rifle and a loaded Remington .243-caliber rifle on Nov. 16, 2004, in Osage County. Under federal statutes, Graves said, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Griffith** has a 1992 criminal felony conviction for stealing.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Griffith** may be subject to a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

Griffith was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 3, 2004, in Jefferson City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Osage County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Lake Area Narcotic Enforcement Group and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

* **Varnell Louis Bradley**, 29, of Columbia, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Bradley** admitted that he was in possession of a loaded Rossi

revolver on Oct. 11, 2004, in Boone County, Mo. Under federal statutes, Graves said, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Bradley** has two 2003 criminal felony convictions for domestic assault in Boone County.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Bradley** may be subject to a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

Bradley was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 4, 2004, in Jefferson City.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow